

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **Region 6 FY 2007-2008 Environmental Justice Action Plan**

revised 2/07

The Region 6 Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs (OEJTA) is committed to finding solutions to environmental and health problems that may affect all Americans. Region 6 seeks solutions through partnerships and collaborative efforts with communities, governments, businesses, industry, and academia. OEJTA coordinates Environmental Justice (EJ) goals and priorities with EPA program offices to ensure EJ integration into relevant Agency activities. Through partnerships with communities, other government entities, academia and industry, OEJTA seeks to build capacity and empower citizens to participate in the regulatory process. Our guiding principle is that everyone, regardless of race or income, is entitled to live in a clean environment.

The Environmental Justice (EJ) Team is one of two teams in OEJTA. Its main function is to fully integrate and administer the EJ program in the Region. The EJ Team consists of three full-time and two part-time employees, including the EJ Associate Director, under the direct supervision of the OEJTA Director. In addition, EJ efforts are supported by an Environmental Justice Workgroup comprised of staff level support from each Division office. "EJ Fundamentals" training efforts are currently dormant; however, there is a commitment to re-staff that effort in FY07 and FY08.

The EJ Team, EJ Workgroup, and EJ Training Team operate under the functional leadership of the Associate Director for Environmental Justice who also serves as the EJ Team Leader and EJ Coordinator. The EJ Coordinator is the Regional expert and advocate for environmental justice and intergovernmental relations and serves as the senior advisor to the Director of OEJTA, the Regional Administrator, Deputy Regional Administrator, and Senior Managers on EJ issues. OEJTA EJ initiatives are funded through various sources; however, with the exception of EJ grant funding and the summer EJ internship program, there is currently no consistent funding source for special programs and projects to address EJ issues.

Region 6 programs have identified specific EJ commitments for FY07 and FY08. The Region 6 2007/08 EJ Action Plan (Attached) covers the accountability/reporting elements of the Region 6 EJ Program. The commitments included are consistent with the EPA Administrator's eight national EJ priorities and these accountability/reporting elements are directly tied to the Agency Strategic Plan Goals. The EJ Action Plan process requires annual reporting/accountability

information be furnished to OEJTA by each Division office. These reports serve as tools to evaluate the effectiveness of the Regional EJ program through addressing applicable program goals for EJ contained in the Region 6 EJ Action Plan. In turn, OEJTA provides annual progress reports to the Office of Environmental Justice. Region 6 is currently participating in a national workgroup to develop a process for conducting EJ review of EPA programs. It is anticipated the Program Review development process will be completed and implemented in late FY2007.

OEJTA and Division offices encourage the states to address Environmental Justice issues. Grants are provided for states, tribes, and other entities to implement the water, hazardous waste, air, pesticide, solid waste, lead-based paint, underground storage tank and children's health programs. Region 6 will continue to encourage that Performance Partnership Agreements (PPAs), Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs), and Categorical Grants to States include grant conditions specific to environmental justice. OEJTA convenes regular meetings with the states, including semi-annual EJ State Coordinators meetings.

OEJTA participates in regular coordination and reporting activities with the Headquarters Office of Environmental Justice, including monthly EJ Coordinator conference calls, the development of National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) updates, policy workgroups, EJ Executive Steering Committee meetings, national Interagency Working Group conference calls, and the generation of EJ progress reports. OEJTA participates in Regional workgroups, including the Regional Incident Command Team. As a result, we have been successful in getting a commitment to integrate EJ into the Emergency Response process at the national and regional levels.

Region 6 maintains regular relationships with external stakeholders including environmental groups/coalitions, industrial facilities and associations, tribes, local and state agencies and elected officials, as well as other federal agencies including Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Health Resources Service Administration, Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and numerous other agencies. Region 6 has developed and distributes printed materials, including the EJ brochure in English and Spanish, the EJ Grant-Writing Training Guidebook, and other outreach documents. OEJTA also maintains a website accessible to the public. OEJTA maintains a mailing list of potential stakeholders who receive periodic mailings and notifications, and participates in Community Industry Panels and specialized community-based workgroups.

In FY 2003, EPA sponsored its first Regional Listening Session in Houston, Texas. Stakeholders from all five of the Region 6 States participated in this forum. The Regional Listening Session served as a catalyst that encouraged similar efforts at the state government level. Subsequently, OEJTA assisted the states of New Mexico and Louisiana in sponsoring EJ Listening Sessions.

OEJTA has ongoing partnerships in numerous communities in Region 6, including the Kelly Area Collaborative (Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio), Louisiana Environmental Justice Community Organizations Coalition (LEJCOC), and Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (Albuquerque).

OEJTA works closely with the U.S./Mexico Border Program to serve all communities along the border. Regional personnel maintain communication with the border community and serve as liaisons to increase EPA access to affected communities, to promote a meaningful community participation process and to act as a source of information and support for these communities. The EJ Team also addresses many tribal and EJ issues in collaboration with the Tribal Team.

OEJTA works diligently to ensure access to information for all communities. Providing information in native languages increases awareness of environmental and public health issues and enables limited English proficiency (LEP) persons to make more informed decisions regarding their lives and their local environments. The U.S.-Mexico border area has a large Spanish-speaking population, as do additional parts of Texas and New Mexico, and many Vietnamese-speaking communities exist on the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast. Region 6 has developed materials that are accessible to non-English speaking language groups and Region 6's Vietnamese-American staff routinely offer their skills in translating Agency documents into Vietnamese.

OEJTA provides "EJ Fundamentals" training to various internal and external stakeholder groups as part of the Region's implementation of the EJ Training Initiative. Region 6 plays an active role in developing foundational EJ training tailored to a wide variety of audiences including EPA, State, community and industry. In addition, OEJTA provides grant-writing training in various areas to assist prospective grant applicants in preparation of grant proposals.

Region 6 has utilized the EPA Environmental Justice Index Methodology for EJ analysis since its inception in 1993. The methodology uses Geographic Information System (GIS) maps, census demographic data and the Hazard Risk Index (HRI) method to mathematically rank individual sites. Region 6 is committed to use all tools at its disposal to effectively address EJ issues in the Region, including the Environmental Justice Mapper and Environmental Justice Toolkit. While the EJ Index identifies economically stressed and minority populations, the analysis can be expanded to identify education, employment, and cultural factors. In 2006, Region 6 hosted the Environmental Justice Smart Analysis Tool (EJSEAT) training for Regional employees. The Region is committed to utilizing EJSEAT in the enforcement program and other decision-making as applicable.

## **REGION 6 FY 2007-2008**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN**

revised 2/07

#### **I. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

##### **A. Organizational Infrastructure and Management Support:**

The Region 6 Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs (OEJTA) is committed to finding solutions to environmental and health problems that may affect all Americans, consistent with the Environmental Justice (EJ) Executive Order 12898. EJ efforts are especially focused on vulnerable populations, including minority and/or low-income populations, who may be disproportionately impacted by environmental decisions. Region 6 is committed to finding solutions through partnerships and strategic alliances with communities, governments, business, industry, and academia. Through education and partnerships, OEJTA empowers stakeholders with access to

program development and implementation, as well as through participation in projects and policy-making that affect their lives. Effective administration of the EJ Program is important to the Region because studies show that: (1) minority and low-income communities may be disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards<sup>1</sup> and thus are in need of information and assistance; (2) a sizeable portion of the Region's vulnerable populations live in areas where EJ issues potentially pose a concern; and (3) the Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898 states that EPA is the lead federal agency for environmental justice.

The EJ Program is structured to maximize opportunities to integrate and administer the EJ program in the Region. OEJTA is located within the office of the Deputy Regional Administrator (DRA). This placement strategically positions the Office at the highest level in the organization so that cross/multimedia EJ activities are managed most efficiently. The Region 6 program structure includes a four person EJ Team under the direction of a Team Leader. Day to day decisions relevant to EJ implementation and integration are the responsibility of the EJ Team Leader, or EJ Associate Director. The EJ Team Leader reports to the Director of OEJTA, who reports to the DRA.

The work of the EJ Team is also supported by an Environmental Justice Workgroup, which consists of seven members representing their Divisions. Each workgroup member, appointed by the respective Division or Office Director, is also supported by an alternate representative who serves in his/her absence. The workgroup serves to augment and support EJ implementation activities at the Division level and advises Divisional management and staff on EJ-related issues. This empowers Region 6 to integrate EJ into the program areas. The training function of the office is supported by the EJ Training Team consisting of trainers who perform both internal and external training.

The EJ Team, in cooperation with the EJ Workgroup, has developed an EJ Implementation Strategy document which sets out overall EJ goals and objectives. Annual or biennial EJ Action Plans define implementation plans, and accountability/reporting measures. A copy of the 2007-2008 Region 6 EJ Action Plan is attached.

## **B. Operational Resources/Program Support:**

As previously stated, the EJ Team is one of two teams within OEJTA. The EJ Team is

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, SITING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILLS AND THEIR CORRELATION WITH RACIAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES (1983)

supported by the EJ Workgroup and the EJ Training Team operating collaterally. The efforts of personnel assigned to these teams are accounted for as partial FTEs. The Region 6 EJ organization is staffed by the following personnel:

OEJTA Executive Management

Lawrence Starfield, Deputy Regional Administrator (0.1 FTE)

Jonathan B. Hook, Director, OEJTA (0.5 FTE)

EJ Team

Shirley Augurson, Associate Director for Environmental Justice (1 FTE)

Linda Falk, EJ Specialist, New Mexico Liaison and U.S./Mexico Border Liaison (0.5 FTE)

Nelda Perez, EJ Specialist, Texas Liaison (1 FTE)

Shirley Quinones, EJ Specialist, Arkansas and Oklahoma Liaison and Grants Coordinator (.75 FTE)

Charlotte Runnels, EJ Specialist, Louisiana (1 FTE)

OEJTA Strategic Planner/Management Analyst

Ginny Vietti, (.5 FTE)

OEJTA Office Support Staff

James Butler, Administrative Specialist (0.5 FTE)

Carrie Clayton, Secretary (0.5 FTE)-SEE Employee

EJ Workgroup

Teresa Cooks, Compliance and Enforcement Division (0.1 FTE)

Ruben Casso, Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division (0.1 FTE)

Lisa Pham, Water Quality Division (0.1 FTE)

Margie Floyd, Management Division (0.1 FTE)

Janetta Coats and Karen McCormick, Superfund Division (0.1 FTE)

Paulette Johnsey, Office of External Affairs (0.1 FTE)

Sherry Brown-Wilson, Regional Counsel (0.1 FTE)

EJ Training Team and Grants Training:

Shirley Quinones (Lead Trainer)

The total aggregate FTE for the OEJTA and its ancillary groups is 7.05 FTE.

**C. Functions of the EJ Coordinator (Associate Director/EJ Team Leader)**

The EJ Coordinator (Associate Director/EJ Team Leader), supported by the EJ Team, is the Regional expert and advocate for environmental justice and intergovernmental relations and serves as the advisor to the Regional Administrator (RA), Deputy Regional Administrator(DRA), OEJTA Director, and Senior Managers for environmental justice. The EJ Team Leader, with the support of the EJ Team, is responsible for the following:

- Represents the Regional office in relations with organizations and individuals concerned with EJ issues, and, as appropriate, with local governments, State Legislatures, Governors Offices and Congress.
- Recommends and develops Regional policy to foster mutual understanding and cooperation.
- Establishes constructive relationships with local officials, staff and EJ organizations to encourage support and understanding of the Region's programs.
- Acts as the Regional point person for environmental justice with knowledge and understanding of EJ operations, key players and stakeholders (legislative, economic, business and commerce, media, environmental), as well as major issues and trends that may influence EPA operations.
- Implements EJ programs assigned to the Region and coordinates actions with Headquarters and Regional as well as other Federal agency counterparts, anticipates controversial issues, and advises the Director, RA, and DRA accordingly, recommending specific courses of action.
- Identifies key stakeholders, and develops and maintains relationships with them.
- Provides advice and assistance to senior management and staff on EJ issues and serves as a liaison between EPA and persons and organizations involved in EJ issues.
- Assists with and reviews testimonies, statements of policy, staff briefings and EJ proposals.
- Provides information to stakeholders.
- Ensures adequate and timely responses to EJ inquiries and serve as subject matter specialist on key EJ legislation as well as local/State/Federal Government budgets

impacting the Region's EJ operations.

- Analyzes the political climate of areas with EJ issues; coordinates activities to obtain understanding of and support for the Agency's goals, policies and programs; arranges for courtesy visits between the RA, DRA and EJ officials and leaders; and represents EPA by coordinating and participating in briefings, courtesy visits, conference calls and meetings between the Agency and constituents.
- Works with the media and cross-media Divisions to develop an integrated (geographic) approach that proactively resolves EJ issues.
- Facilitates meetings and works on teams to address multi-media, cross-program coordination. Works to integrate issues across program lines, bringing together key Regional staff and EJ stakeholders.
- Identifies multi-media strategic opportunities, partnerships, and collaborations among agencies and EJ stakeholders and builds relationships to impact EPA issues before they become problems.
- Manages the EJ Small Grants Program and regional participation in the EJ Collaborative Problem Solving Grant Program.
- Serves as Regional coordinator for the Office of Environmental Justice when Region 6 is designated as lead region.
- Tracks EJ legislation.
- Analyzes and examines a range of environmental protection issues.
- Identifies options for interacting with federal/State, and local EJ officials on high priority initiatives.
- Makes recommendations to the Director, RA, DRA, and senior management to propose approaches, resolve problems, or take another course of action to accomplish program objectives.
- Evaluates Regional policy options to promote and facilitate understanding by locally elected officials.
- Identifies opportunities to develop or amend Regional strategic priorities in the areas of community based environmental protection and alternative performance-based strategies.
- Recommends plans and policies designed to meet program objectives or assists policy makers in formulating policy in sensitive and difficult areas.

The EJ Team supports the EJ Coordinator in administration of the Region 6 EJ Program. Those responsibilities include, but are not limited to, administration of the EJ Small Grants program, technical evaluation and mitigation of EJ problems and issues, outreach to communities and stakeholder groups, development of responses to external, Congressional, Regional and Headquarters inquiries, development of regular reports of EJ activities including the EJ Biennial report, NEJAC updates, etc. The EJ Team also maintains the EJ web site, develops/implements internal and external training, and coordinates with EJ Workgroup and EJ Training Team members in support of full integration of EJ into the day-to-day activities of the Divisions.

**D. Strategic Plan Alignment (Link to Mission and Priorities):**

The attached EJ Action Plan Matrix covers the accountability and reporting elements of the Region 6 EJ Program. Reporting elements are directly tied to the Agency Strategic Plan goals and national EJ priorities. The EJ Implementation Strategy was developed in cooperation with the Divisions and provides goals and objectives regarding the integration of environmental justice in areas such as authorization and delegation, outreach, grants and contracts, enforcement and compliance assistance, permitting, performance partnership, public participation, site cleanup and Brownfields.

## **II. INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONAL ENGAGEMENT:**

In addition to the coordination and reporting provisions of the EJ Action Plan, OEJTA participates in regular coordination and reporting activities with the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), including regularly participating in EJ Coordinator conference calls, EJ grant conference calls, development of NEJAC updates, progress reports and development of national policy guidance. Region 6 also made substantial contributions to OEJ initiatives, including EJ policy direction and guidance development in our FY05-06 role as EJ Lead Region. During that time, key accomplishments that Region 6 played a role in included the development of national EJ priorities and related policies and the development of EJSEAT analysis policy. Region 6 also played a lead role in Agency re-engagement on EJ at the national and regional levels.

The Division offices consistently collaborate with other offices and agencies to address serious health and environmental issues in EJ communities. Meaningful and continuous outreach and education to citizens and environmental groups in EJ areas is a major focus. Historically, citizen input has been utilized in the development of enforcement targeting and enforcement action plans. Management and staff work together to discuss and develop new approaches to address the needs of EJ communities. An example of this collaboration is our work with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana Environmental Justice Community Organizations Coalition on a variety of environmental and health related issues.

Each Division office has a unique role to play in carrying out the tasks of environmental justice. The Region 6 EJ Implementation Strategy describes the activities that each Division office will undertake to implement along with the EJ Action Plan in their respective programs. This strategic plan clearly spells out those roles and will serve as assessment tool to provide insight into the Region's performance on EJ issues.

### **III. EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:**

#### **A. External Stakeholder/Interagency Collaboration**

Region 6 maintains regular relationships with external stakeholders including environmental groups/coalitions, tribes, industrial facilities and associations, local and state agencies and elected officials, as well as other federal agencies including the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Department of Energy, Department of Defense, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and many other agencies. OEJTA participates (or has participated) in Community Industry Panels (CIP) including the Regional Health Awareness Board (RHAB) Corpus Christi, the Kelly Area Collaborative in San Antonio, the Nueces County Regional Colonia Initiative the Norco/New Sarpy CIP and the Beaumont-Charlton Pollard CIP and works with specialized community-based workgroups (Cesar Chavez/ Southeast Houston Health and Environmental Workgroups).

In FY2003, EPA Region 6 sponsored its first Regional Listening Session in Houston, Texas, which was the first in the nation promoting interactive, solution-oriented dialogues with communities. Stakeholders from all five Region 6 states participated. Extensive follow-up activities and action items which came out of the session were investigated, and appropriate follow-up actions were taken. As a follow-up to the Regional Session, states made commitments to have state-focused sessions to provide opportunity for further discussion and follow-up.

One outcome of the Regional Listening Session was the New Mexico EJ Listening Session. In 2004, the Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs (OEJTA) partnered with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to assist with planning and carrying out five successful state-wide EJ Listening Sessions. OEJTA provided financial and technical assistance and was an active participant in the planning committee. As a result of the issues raised, the New Mexico EJ Task Force (EJTF) was formed. EJTF currently operates in a multi-agency advisory capacity on EJ matters. Some of the most notable accomplishments that resulted from the Listening Sessions and the work of the committee was the crafting of the New Mexico EJ Executive Order and NMED's hiring

of its first EJ Coordinator in 2005. The development of the State EJ Executive Order (E.O.), one of the few EJ E.O.'s at the state-government level in the country, was signed by the Governor in 2005. In addition, NMED held a Colonia Summit in 2005 and 2006 to focus on the unique problems of southern New Mexico colonias. OEJTA assisted with funding and planning expertise. Many of the issues raised at the summit were then elevated to the New Mexico Legislature for action. As a result of EPA's partnership and collaboration with NMED, significant strides were made toward ensuring environmental protections for all.

The Kelly Area Collaboration (KAC) at the former Kelly Air Force Base (KAFB) in San Antonio, Texas is an example of the interagency, multi-stakeholder collaboration OEJTA facilitates and participates in. KAC's overall goal is to develop a process promoting partnerships and solution-oriented problem solving. KAC is an effort to identify, mobilize, and make use of federal, state, local and community resources to benefit the environmentally and economically distressed communities affected by the KAFB conversion activities. The project focuses on constructive dialogue and building effective partnerships between community-based organizations, relevant federal, state, and local agencies, and other stakeholders through community meetings and roundtables on health, environmental cleanup and economic revitalization. Numerous facilitated planning meetings have been held since 2004, and a community meeting and two Roundtables focused on the Environmental and Health have been held. The Economic Revitalization Roundtable will be held in March 2007. Funding for facilitation has been provided by EPA, Air Force Real Property Association, and San Antonio Metro Health. The project will produce reports from each roundtable, which will contribute to developing a comprehensive understanding of the local stakeholders' concerns and aspirations. An implementation meeting will be held after the Economic Roundtable to explore how recommendations and concerns may be addressed. The participants in this collaboration are moving from conflict toward collaboration.

The Corpus Christi Regional Health Awareness Board (RHAB) Initiative grew out of the Region 6 Planning and Scoping process, which the EJ Team recommended to address regional health and environmental issues in the area in response to citizen concerns. The RHAB was established via an inter-local agreement and brings together representatives from two counties (Nueces and San Patricio), industry, the City of Corpus Christi. Community representatives and academia are also represented on the Board, along with ex-officio representatives from EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The RHAB meets every month in Corpus Christi, Texas to

explore solutions to environmental health issues. The EJ Team is a participant in these meetings.

## **B. External Outreach**

OEJTA maintains an ongoing relationship with key environmental coalitions including the Southwest Network for Economic and Environmental Justice, the Louisiana Environmental Justice Community Organization Coalition, and the Louisiana Environmental Action Network. These coalitions and their member organizations provide opportunities to identify potential EJ issues and stakeholder groups who can benefit from coordination with the OEJTA. Additionally, OEJTA regularly receives telephone calls and e-mail inquiries from groups and individuals who require assistance. OEJTA maintains a mailing list of potential stakeholders who receive periodic mailings and notifications.

OEJTA staff maintains an extensive e-mail address list and regularly surveys information sources for information/opportunities which may be of benefit to EJ communities and organizations. This information is mass e-mailed to all addressees. Staff also serves as a clearing house for questions and concerns regarding information disseminated. The EJ Team also maintains a Regional web site which has a mechanism for online user input and inquiries. In addition, Region 6 has developed and distributes printed materials, including the EJ brochure, the EJ Grant Writing Guidebook, and other outreach documents. In response to lessons learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, OEJTA has a presence during emergency response events. In addition, OEJTA is developing an Emergency Contacts database of community contacts for highly vulnerable areas.

OEJTA collaborates with other federal agencies to alert them to areas of concern beyond EPA's authority.

Region 6 currently encourages Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) to address EJ concerns. In order to give residents an opportunity to have meaningful input into the SEP negotiation process, Region 6 has launched an internet-based (SEP) Idea Library which was created as a tool for to enhance community involvement. These ideas may be considered by industries and other pollution-emitting facilities during the enforcement case negotiation process.

Enforcement staff keep the public informed of fines proposed in the pending enforcement actions, including the amount of the proposed fine and the location of the facility where the fine is assessed. The notices are available in local and regional newspapers and are posted in local libraries.

These notices are also available on the EPA Region 6 web site. The public is also notified of the location of these notices through mail-outs to stakeholder groups.

Superfund staff works to ensure EJ community involvement at all Superfund sites which impact EJ communities. EJ public participation efforts at National Priority Sites (NPL, removal sites and Brownfields communities) include educational efforts, direct local stakeholder/EPA interactions, meetings, one-on-one contacts, information distribution via direct distribution and over the internet, etc. Staff ensures that the EJ community interaction is customized to the specific community's needs. All related removal and remedial site information is typically placed into site repositories located in the communities where the program actions take place. The Region 6's policy for community involvement is "early and often" community involvement and interactions.

At each Superfund site, particularly those in EJ communities, EPA staff encourage the use of Community Advisory Groups (CAGs) by offering CAG organization training and related tools. EPA staff participates in CAG meetings whenever possible.

In all communities, including EJ communities, Regional staff works closely with the 540 Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). The LEPCs are volunteer groups consisting of local community members (police, industry, city officials, medical personnel, press/news media, emergency management departments of cities, and neighborhood community members) living in the impacted neighborhoods. EPA works closely with LEPCs to provide expert information and training opportunities. Region 6 is one of the few Regions that provides an annual LEPC Conference for the volunteers. The LEPC concept is the most successful non-funded volunteer community in the United States.

Superfund Site Status Summaries, site fact sheets and five-year reviews are posted on the Region 6 Superfund web site. Many documents are also provided in Spanish. Hard copies of these documents are made available to those without computer access through direct mail and through local repositories.

On-Scene Coordinators, Remedial Project Managers and Community Involvement Coordinators work closely with their contractors and encourage them to hire workers from the impacted EJ communities.

Staff also provides opportunities to EJ communities not eligible for Technical Assistance

Grants to access the services of the Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC). TOSC can assist communities in 1) obtaining training to help them work more efficiently with government agencies; 2) providing training in better managing local stakeholder group's environmental efforts; 3) taking environmental samples at contaminated sites; 4) facilitating meetings and numerous other services.

Region 6 has an extensive Tribal outreach program. Over the next year, training will be provided to Tribal nations on topics ranging from public water system operation to reducing blood-lead levels. The Tribal Team members in OEJTA serve as liaisons to Tribes and manage General Assistance Program grants. These activities strengthen the government-to-government relationship between Tribes and EPA. In addition, OEJTA assists other Divisions in working with Tribes and helps resolve problems that are encountered in addressing environmental issues.

In many EJ communities there is a lack of effective community infrastructure services. Extensive emergency exercises are conducted in EJ communities in efforts to provide the communities with real tools that can be utilized in an emergency. Planning for and implementation of the emergency exercises always includes EJ community leaders participation so that staff has a real awareness and understanding of the community's needs. The community is provided technical advice, information on emergency evacuation and shelter-in-place procedures, as well as general information on emergency response system infrastructure, practices and activities.

## **Hurricane Response**

The devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the monumental recovery effort that followed solidified the importance of incorporating EJ activities and considerations in environmental decision-making, particularly in relationship to natural disaster response. Although natural disasters do not discriminate, minority, low-income, children, elderly and tribal populations are often more vulnerable to related environmental and public health impacts. Hurricane victims may be exposed to hazards through flood waters, mold and debris. The disruption of normal health care services exacerbated public health concerns.

Two important steps taken by the Region 6 Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs were the deployment of an EJ Liaison to the Incident Command Center to assist with identifying and addressing EJ issues and the creation of an inter-agency and community focused taskforce.

EJ Interagency Task Force: EPA Region 6 coordinated the establishment of a regional response mechanism, the Environmental Justice Interagency Taskforce (EJIT), to collaboratively address environmental and public health concerns in areas impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The primary initial goal of EJIT was to provide an avenue for involved agencies to gather input and concerns from impacted communities.

- Participants: In addition to representatives from federal, state and local governments, the taskforce included participants from academia, industry and the community.
- Meetings: EJIT conference calls were held weekly to share information on response activities and community concerns.
- Site Tour: EPA and the City of New Orleans co-sponsored a tour of several areas impacted by the hurricanes in order to give EJIT participants an “on the ground” perspective of the impacts.
- A secondary outcome of the taskforce was the sharing and channeling of cleanup information between agencies and communities by making outreach materials accessible to the taskforce members. Perhaps more importantly, the EJIT established an informal communication network for information sharing that went beyond the official conference calls.

EJ Liaison:

The EJ Liaison established and maintains relationships with federal, state and local agencies in order to provide public health information to vulnerable populations.

- Staffing: The Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs staffed the EJ Liaison by rotating staff on a 2-4 week basis. The EJ Liaison attended public and community meetings and assisted with distributing environmental and public health flyers in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese to communities impacted by the hurricane.
- Community Outreach: In partnership with a local community organization, federal, state and local agencies, the EJ liaison hosted a community meeting, providing a forum for communities to have their environmental concerns addressed by the appropriate agency.
- Outreach to Tribal Population: The EJ Liaison provided outreach to the United Houma Nation of Louisiana and worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals to develop a low-literacy fact sheet and presentation on the risks and health effects associated with mold.

Grant Assistance to Hurricane Impacted Areas:

In response to the hurricanes, the EPA Office of Environmental Justice made grant money available to Regions 4 and 6 to fund community based projects directly related to environmental justice issues in hurricane affected communities. To assist communities in successfully competing for these funds, Region 6 held grant workshops in four communities affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: Houma, Lake Charles and New Orleans, Louisiana, and Beaumont/Port Arthur, Texas. The presentations focused on the contents of the grant solicitation, helpful hints in writing a successful grant proposal, and a question and answer period. Subsequently, the Region awarded three \$50,000 grants in September 2006 to assist communities with recovery efforts:

- The Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing group will conduct a project to form collaborative partnerships to identify, prioritize, and develop plans to address hurricane related environmental problems and perceived health impacts.
- Texas Recyclers Association, Inc. will provide educational outreach, interactive activities, and hands-on training related to energy conservation to promote safe environment practices for economically-disadvantaged households affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- The Louisiana Environmental Action Network will provide protective gear, educational materials, and training sessions to help protect recovery workers and residents from exposure to mold and other hazardous substances found in flood damaged homes and buildings.

### **C. Special Initiatives for Persons with Limited English Proficiency**

Providing information in native languages increases awareness of environmental and public health issues and enables limited English proficiency (LEP) persons to make more informed decisions regarding their lives and their local environments. OEJTA works with diligently to ensure access to information for all communities. Region 6 has extensive materials that are accessible to non-English speaking language groups. The Region has large Spanish-speaking constituencies, particularly along the U.S./Mexico Border, and Vietnamese-speaking communities on the Texas Gulf Coast.

OEJTA staff participates on the Hispanic Outreach Workgroup, that recently hosted a Hispanic stakeholders meeting in San Antonio on October 18 – 19, 2006. Information about the environment and EPA was disseminated, and attendees presented their concerns. Partnership opportunities are evolving from this effort that will help EPA meet the needs of underserved communities.

OEJTA works closely with the regional U.S.-Mexico Border Program to serve all

communities along the border. OEJTA is committed to meet the EJ needs of the border communities and stakeholders. Regional personnel maintain communication with the border community, serve as liaisons to increase EPA access to affected communities, and fill the gaps of the Border Program regarding environmental justice.

The Region 6 Border Program and EJ staff conduct extensive outreach activities to inform and educate the border communities about environmental justice and to identify their specific EJ needs. The Border and EJ Programs have worked collaboratively on projects and activities of benefit to the Spanish-speaking community in the border. Two Border Environmental Justice Roundtables for border stakeholders and representatives of grassroots EJ organizations on both sides of the border have been held in El Paso, Texas in 2001 and 2003. Plans are being made to hold a joint Region 6 and Region 9 Border EJ Roundtable in the near future. Because Border 2012 is a bi-regional, bi-national program, Regions 6 and 9 and Mexico have many issues of common concern to address.

Region 6 established a Border Compliance Assistance Center in 2004 that is a “One-Stop-Shop” for small to medium-size businesses to help them understand their regulatory obligation related to import/export and transportation of hazardous waste between the US and Mexico. Information is presented both in English and Spanish, and this program continues to be successful. Region 6 manages the Border 2012 Web Site to provide new information on the updated U.S./Mexico Border Program. This is a one-stop web site for communities and others searching for environmental information to the U.S. Mexico Border, and other environmental information as requested.

The EJ staff develops needed materials in Spanish for outreach to the Hispanic community, such as fact sheets on the EJ Small Grants Program and question-and-answer fact sheets on environmental justice and EJ topics. Certain existing materials, such as the EJ brochure, are also translated to ensure that stakeholders of limited English ability may also have access to important information. Materials in Spanish targeted for persons with limited English-speaking ability and of limited education, such as many *colonia* residents, are especially tailored for this audience to ensure that they are easy to read and to comprehend.

The Superfund Program personnel are required to examine the ethnic makeup of each community that has a site requiring a removal or remedial action. If the EJ community has specific language concerns, the program ensures that all site-related materials provided to the community are

translated into the appropriate neighborhood language. At all meetings in EJ communities with additional language needs, EPA provides interpreters. Care is taken to use the best vehicle to most effectively optimize local stakeholder outreach and communication feedback opportunities.

Region 6's Vietnamese-American staff routinely offer their skills in translating Agency documents into Vietnamese. This service has never been more imperative than after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which displaced approximately 50,000 Vietnamese-Americans. Region 6 led a translation team consisting of native-speaking Vietnamese-American staff from the Office of Water, Office of Pesticides and Regions 3 and 9 to ensure that all EPA translated documents were technically accurate, linguistically appropriate, and culturally sensitive. Approximately 20 brochures, pamphlets and flyers and eight public service announcements were translated into Vietnamese during the hurricane recovery efforts. Translated products included vital information and guidance on subjects such as the emergency disinfection of drinking water, how to deal with mold, flood water, asbestos and lead, how to clean up sediments, what to do when returning to homes and businesses after hurricanes, hazardous waste disposal and commercial debris.

Region 6 also assisted in creating a website to post EPA resources in Vietnamese for hurricane preparation and recovery and assisted the Agency's New Orleans Command Center in distributing more than 3,000 flyers and handouts to Vietnamese-American evacuees and communities in the affected areas. To publicize EPA's newly-created Vietnamese website and resources in Vietnamese for hurricane preparation and recovery, Region 6 participated in talk show broadcasts on local ethnic radio stations in Dallas and Houston. These locales were chosen because the majority of hurricane-affected Vietnamese-Americans were relocated to these areas. Saigon Houston Radio is the major radio station for more than 150,000 Vietnamese-Americans living in Houston, Texas. Region 6 staff also provided interviews to the Vietnamese-Voice of America and Vietnamese Public Radio in Washington, DC and the Times-Picayune in New Orleans. Vietnamese-Voice of America broadcasts more than 1,000 hours of news, information, educational, and cultural programming every week to an estimated worldwide audience of more than 100 million people.

#### **D. Specific Grant Programs for Which Environmental Justice Will Be Listed as a Funding Priority**

In addition to the EJ Small Grants and Collaborative Problem Solving Programs and PPGs,

EPA awards to State capitalization grants which are authorized by the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act for the purposes of providing low-interest loans for both water and wastewater infrastructure projects in low-income communities. Through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund programs, States can provide subsidies to disadvantaged communities to reduce the economic impact of the communities' infrastructure projects. Since 1991, Congress has appropriated approximately \$335.8 million in financial assistance through the Texas and New Mexico Colonia Programs directed toward disadvantaged and minority communities along the U.S.-Mexico Border area. These funds are to address the human health and environmental protection needs of the border communities. Many of these communities are unincorporated (i.e., colonias) with low median incomes.

The Brownfields Program has 55 grant awardees working on site assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of Brownfields properties. These awardees, which include cities, counties, planning organizations, Tribes and States, are predominately concentrating on Brownfields that are located in minority and disadvantaged neighborhoods. Over the last ten years of existence of the EPA's Brownfields Program, Region 6's grantees have leveraged over \$2 billion in redevelopment projects. Nearly all of this influx of new money has gone to benefit EJ communities through the creation of new jobs, green space addition, and increased revenues and city services brought about by the enlargement of their respective tax base. The overall health of many of these communities has improved also due to the removal or elimination of exposure to hazardous materials. The Superfund Program requires that grantees provide EJ communities the opportunities to be included in grant-related community activities.

Region 6 will target several border communities for new Brownfields grants. In order to facilitate this goal, at least one workshop will be conducted in a border community and at least one new cooperative agreement for site assessment and cleanup to a border community will be awarded.

If a group wishes to apply for a Superfund Reuse/Redevelopment grant, the input and involvement of the impacted EJ community is a ranking factor for awarding of the grants. The Reuse grants provide EJ communities the opportunities to have a voice in the redevelopment or reuse of National Priorities List (NPL) sites in their communities. The local stakeholder input into the remedial decisions can change the level of the cleanup, depending on the site reuse plans.

In addition to the Reuse and Brownfields grant opportunities, EJ communities are offered

the opportunity to apply for the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) in EJ sites located in neighborhoods with an NPL site in the community. The TAGs provide the EJ communities with funds to hire independent technical or health experts who can review and interpret technical or health-related materials developed as part of the NPL remedial process.

#### **IV. PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Region 6 is currently considering options to revitalize implementation of the EJ Training Initiative. Region 6 has played an active role in developing foundational EJ training tailored to a wide variety of audiences. The Region will endeavor to present this training to internal audiences, State, Tribes, community and industry audiences to increase the understanding and implementation of the principles of environmental justice. The training encompasses an examination of the issues and elements of environmental justice, legal authorities, case studies and EJ tools. The EJ Training Initiative is comprised of representatives from community, federal and State government, and industry. As scheduling permits, EJ Fundamental Training will be completed by all Region 6 employees in accordance with the Regional EJ Training Plan. These sessions will include modules on best practices and lessons learned. In addition, OEJTA provides grant-writing training in various areas to assist prospective grant applicants in preparation of grant proposals.

#### **V. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENT:**

Region 6 developed the EPA Environmental Justice (EJ) Index Methodology for site analysis. It is a modification of the Region's Human Health Risk Index (H.I.) formula. The EJ methodology defines demographic criteria, applies basic principles of science, and requires environmental managers to use program specific data to identify communities of most concern. In 1993, Region 6 adopted the EJ Index protocol. The methodology uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps, census demographic data and the Hazard Index (HI) method to mathematically rank individual sites. The categories selected for analysis to determine vulnerabilities include: economic status, percent of children age five and under, predominant language used, proximity to polluting facilities, and education level. The method is automated in GIS and currently analyzes 50 square miles and one square mile geographic area (communities). The method has an automated mapping facility. The EJ Formula is derived from the Human Health Risk Index (HRI) and is consistent with the approach used in all Region 6 risk-based algorithms: Exposure multiplied by Hazard equals Risk.

***Human Health Risk Index (HRI) = Exposure X Hazard***

Region 6 is committed to use all tools at its disposal to effectively address EJ issues in the region including the Environmental Justice Mapper, Environmental Justice Toolkit, and EJSEAT. While the EJ Index identifies economically stressed and minority populations, the analysis can be expanded to identify education, employment, and cultural factors.

The Office of Planning and Coordination in the Region's Enforcement Division provides training, maintenance, and future development of the Geographical Information System demographic system to assist other Division offices in implementation and utilization of basic EJ demographic analyses. The National Environmental Policy Act, Federal Facilities, and Comparative Risk programs use the Region's Geographical Information System EJ index methodology to accomplish the Agency's goal of EJ awareness and incorporation of environmental justice into program activities.

Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division uses the EJ Index methodology and Geographical Information System technology, whenever possible, as a factor in the development of enforcement actions and targeting facilities for investigations and/or single/multimedia inspections, which will ensure the consideration of EJ issues that may occur. EJ criteria are also used to set priorities. For example, the use of EJ indicators can trigger the focus of an Agency sector initiative, or a Regional priority area.

The EJ index is considered during the case development stages of the enforcement actions in order to identify violators located in EJ communities. Where possible, cases in EJ areas will be issued and settled in less than one year. Settlement negotiations include SEPs that benefit the community, such as negotiating with the facility to pay for the mandatory three-year re-inspection and management plan development for a school in its community, pay for cost to abate asbestos or lead at a school, educate the community about the hazards of lead, and testing low-income and minority children' blood level. Community organizations, citizens group, interested parties will be notified of the outcome of EJ cases through the mail and other communication media.

The Superfund Division's efforts are made to ensure that local stakeholder communications take into consideration the specific EJ concerns that might be evidenced by the analysis. Staff uses the methodology on a consistent basis when they review site decisions and communications delivery.

To the extent possible, Regional staff has begun using the EJ Toolkit as a valuable resource in

performance of EJ assessments and other EJ evaluations. Of particular importance are the EJ Indicators which are proving to be a valuable resource in evaluating EJ issues. We anticipate using this document as a resource in updating the regional EJ Indexing Methodology over the coming years.

## **VI. PROGRAM EVALUATION:**

The EJ Action Plan requires regular reporting/accountability information be furnished to the Deputy Regional Administrator (DRA) by each Division office. These reports serve as a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of the Regional EJ program. The reports address applicable program goals for environmental justice contained in the Division offices' strategic plans. The Divisions report their EJ progress to the OEJTA, according to the Agency's EJ Priorities:

Goal 1: Clean Air and Global Climate Change

Objective 1: Reduction on the number of asthma attacks

Objective 2: Reduce exposure to air toxics

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water

Objective 1: Safe fish/shellfish

Objective 2: Clean and safe drinking water

Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems

Objective 1: Reducing elevated blood lead levels

Objective 2: Collaborative problem-solving to address environmental justice issues

Objective 3: Revitalization of Brownfields and contaminated sites

Goal 5: Compliance and Environmental Stewardship

Objective: Ensuring compliance

Goal: Cross Cutting Strategies

Objective: Internal Capacity-Building

In addition, each Division office specifically reports on these elements of public participation:

A. Local stakeholder inquiries from EJ communities;

B. Educational sessions in EJ communities;

- C. Response to requests from EJ communities;
- D. Addressing language barriers in EJ communities;
- E. Public meetings/hearings in EJ communities;
- F. Encouragement to the States to work in EJ communities.

The Biennial Action Plan Progress Reports and Narratives required by the OEJ also serve as a valuable performance measurement vehicle.

**Region 6 Environmental Justice Action Plan  
(CY2007-FY2008)**

**Goal 1:** Clean Air and Global Climate Change

*Objective 1: Reduction in number of asthma attacks (e.g., reduce asthma triggers such as particulate matter)*

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure <sup>2</sup>			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Focused enforcement effort on ethylene industry.	Conduct inspections and enforcement in non-attainment areas for ozone affecting vulnerable populations (Houston, TX area).  At least one enforcement action in the non-attainment area in FY 07, based on inspections conducted in FY06.	Surveillance/ Enforcement activities will establish baseline.	N/A	Reduce Nox and VOC emissions in the area.	Esteban Herrera, Chief Guadalupe Pesina, EJ Rep R6, CAED, Air Toxics Section (214) 665-7348 <a href="mailto:herrera.esteban@epa.gov">herrera.esteban@epa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:pesina.guadalupe@epa.gov">pesina.guadalupe@epa.gov</a>
2. Include areas of vulnerable population in Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) travel.	TAGA inspection/sampling will include a vulnerable population area near ship channel in south Texas.	Assessment of results will provide current status in area.	Outreach will be provided on follow-up measures to address results.	Overall emissions reduction in the affected area.  Decrease exposure to adjacent population.	Esteban Herrera, Chief Guadalupe Pesina, EJ Rep R6, CAED, Air Toxics Section (214) 665-7348 <a href="mailto:herrera.esteban@epa.gov">herrera.esteban@epa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:pesina.guadalupe@epa.gov">pesina.guadalupe@epa.gov</a>

<sup>2</sup> All three outcomes may not apply for every activity.

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure <sup>2</sup>			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
3. Support Asthma treatment, service delivery, education, and patient compliance at the Pawnee Indian Health Clinic.	<p>Conduct asthma education programs and service delivery at the Pawnee Clinic in Oklahoma.</p> <p>Document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of missed school and/or work days</li> <li>- # of asthma action plans created</li> <li>- Identification/ specification of asthma triggers</li> </ul>	<p>Patients with asthma will have greater capacity to manage asthma.</p> <p>Improve patient and provider education on asthma triggers and management practices.</p>	<p>Decrease in the use of short-term beta agonists</p> <p>Increase in the use of inhaled corticosteroids</p> <p>Increased documentation of patient education and comprehension</p> <p>Assess rate and extent of compliance in peak flow meter usage.</p> <p>Assess changes made to home environment based on the education the patient received</p>	<p>Decrease in the number of emergency room visits due to asthma attacks.</p> <p>Improved health of patients.</p>	<p>Paula Selzer Children's Health Coordinator (214) 665-6663 selzer.paula@epa.gov</p>

**Goal 1:** Clean Air and Global Climate Change

*Objective 2: Reduce exposure to air toxics (e.g., reduce releases of mercury)*

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Continue flaring and emission reductions efforts in areas with vulnerable populations.	At least two enforcement actions in the Beaumont/Port Arthur area (includes several areas with high percentage of poverty).	Refineries will receive enforcement actions for one or more marquee issues to reduce flaring		Reduction of air pollutants	Guy Donaldson, Chief Guadalupe Pesina, EJ Rep R6, CAED, Air Enf. Section (214) 665-7242 <a href="mailto:donaldson.guy@epa.gov">donaldson.guy@epa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:pesina.guadalupe@epa.gov">pesina.guadalupe@epa.gov</a>
2. Promote testing of tribal homes, tribal schools, and tribal businesses for radon.  Eastern Shawnee Nation – OK  Seminole Nation – OK  San Ildefonso Pueblo – NM  Taos Pueblo – NM  Jemez Pueblo - NM	Eastern Shawnee Nation – 50 Homes and businesses  Seminole Nation – 100 homes  San Ildefonso Pueblo – 50 homes  Taos Pueblo – 100 homes  Jemez Pueblo – 300 homes and businesses	Tribal members will know of high radon levels in their homes, schools and business.	Tribal Members should take steps to eliminate the source of any high radon level readings.	Decrease lung cancer risks for Tribal members	George Brozowski, 6PD Toxics (214) 665-8541 <a href="mailto:brozowski.george@epa.gov">brozowski.george@epa.gov</a>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
3. Provide grants to federally recognized tribes for initial Air assessments or to conduct air monitoring.	Grants will be awarded to at least 8 federally recognized tribes per year to conduct air activities.	Increased awareness of air quality issues.	7 tribes will operate a total of 16 monitors and input data to the Air Quality System (AQS).	Better characterization of air quality problems and resource needs in Indian country.	Len Pardee, Chief, Air State/Tribal Operations Section 214 665 8086 pardee.leonard@e pa.gov

**Goal 2:** Clean and Safe Water

**Objective 1:** Safe fish/shellfish

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Work with States and Tribes to develop water quality standards and monitoring approaches to minimize the risk of exposure to environmental contaminants in fish tissue.	(1) Water quality criteria that provide limits on contaminants in water and sediment, as well as fish tissue, that are protective of human health and (2) fish tissue monitoring programs that inform environmental managers about the need for fish consumption bans or advisories that will protect fish consumers.	The public knows where to look for information about the risks of consuming fish at a local stream, river, or lake.  Provide sound information to public and regulators on water quality.	The public understands the risks of consuming fish from State waters for which fishing bans or advisories are posted and takes steps to avoid such risks.	Eliminate or lower risk of public health threats from human consumption of mercury-laden fish.	Mike Schaub 6WQ (214) 665-7314 schaub.mike@epa.gov

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
2. Encourage the development and implementation of water monitoring programs on tribal lands.	<p>Provide technical assistance to Region 6 tribes on developing and implementing water monitoring programs.</p> <p>Cover issues pertaining to monitoring objectives, monitoring design, field monitoring techniques, Quality Analysis/Quality Control procedures, and data assessment approaches during review of Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) and Water Quality Assessment Reports.</p>	N/A	<p>Continued development and improvement of tribal water quality monitoring programs</p> <p>Reporting of water quality and biological data into EPA's data warehouse, i.e., STORET</p> <p>For individual Tribes, increase in numbers of parameters or numbers of stations to assess status and improvement regarding designated use support and attainment.</p>	<p>By 2012, improve water quality in Indian country at no less than 1 baseline monitoring station in tribal waters. (cumulative) (i.e., show improvement in one or more of seven key parameters: dissolved oxygen, pH, water temperature, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, pathogen indicators, and turbidity).</p>	<p>Forrest John 6WQ (214) 665-8368 <a href="mailto:John.forrest@epa.gov">John.forrest@epa.gov</a></p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
3. Provide technical assistance to Tribes for development and continued revision of water quality standards.	<p>Number of Tribes that have water quality standards approved by EPA. (cumulative)</p> <p>Staff review and provide comments on draft water quality standards developed by Tribes.</p> <p>Assist Tribes in proposing water quality standards for public review.</p> <p>Review TAS applications from Tribes requesting authorization to administer the water quality standards.</p>	Tribal staff understands the administrative processes for adoption of water quality standards and the technical basis for water quality standards.	Water quality standards are appropriate to protect uses of waters and are incorporated in the data quality objectives for the water quality monitoring program.	Ability to assess tribal waters using appropriate water quality standards in support of Measure N.	Diane Evans 6WQ (214) 665-6677 Evans.diane@epa.gov
5. National Lake Survey	Coordinate with Region 6 Tribal partners regarding the collection of water quality and habitat data on tribal waters for aggregation into the National Lakes Survey.	EPA Region 6 has identified tribal waters to be sampled for the National Lakes Survey. The Pueblo of Cochiti has been contacted both in person and by letter regarding the proposed sampling on tribal waters – Cochiti Reservoir.	The tribe has granted access to EPA for sampling on Cochiti Reservoir.	<p>Data from tribal waters will be aggregated for assessment of status lakes nationwide.</p> <p>Provide EPA and tribes with data to assess water quality.</p> <p>Inform public on water quality use and safety.</p>	Forrest John, 6WQ (214) 665-8368 John.forrest@epa.gov

**Goal 2:** Clean and Safe Water

*Objective 2: Clean and safe drinking water*

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Provide compliance assistance to improve drinking water for the Pueblo of Nambe in New Mexico.	An Order on Consent was issued to the Nambe Pueblo in New Mexico, July 13, 2006, signed by the Region 6 Regional Administrator and the Governor of the Nambe Pueblo.	Tribe is aware of the acute and chronic problems with the drinking water based on monitoring results.	Nambe Pueblo initiates action on the requirements of the Order by taking water samples and continues to address deficiencies at the facility.	Demonstration of an effective partnership between EPA and the Pueblo of Nambe.  Improve compliance and provide the citizens of the Nambe with clean and safe drinking water.	Mehdi Taheri, Leader R6, CAED, PWS Enf. Team (214) 665-2298 <a href="mailto:taheri.mehdi@epa.gov">taheri.mehdi@epa.gov</a>
2. Provide compliance assistance to improve drinking water for the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas (KTTT).	An Order on Consent was issued to the KTTT in October 2006 and was signed by the EPA Region 6 Regional Administrator and the Chairman of the Kickapoo Tribe.	Water monitoring samples will identify problems with drinking water.	KTTT initiates action on the requirements of the Order by taking water samples and will address deficiencies at the facility.	Demonstration of an effective partnership between EPA and the KTTT  Improve compliance and provide the citizens of the Kickapoo with clean and safe drinking water.	Mehdi Taheri, Leader R6, CAED PWS Enforcement Team (214) 665-2298 <a href="mailto:taheri.mehdi@epa.gov">taheri.mehdi@epa.gov</a>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
3. Drinking water compliance assistance through enforcement in EJ areas located in Louisiana.	Administrative Orders (AO) were issued to 34 Louisiana parishes for water systems in violation of Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products (DBPR) Rule, during FY 2006. According to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, 22 of these Orders were issued in low-income, minority and under-privileged areas. Due to the complexity of the problem and financial circumstance, the water system may require State Revolving Fund money to meet with EPA AO requirements and comply.	The Water System is monitoring the drinking water, taking samples, and adjusting the chemical dosage to comply with MCL requirements for TTHM and HAA5.	The requirements of the AO are to submit engineering design/plan, to LDHH for review and approval to address deficiencies at the facility (ies).	The facility ensures that compliance has been achieved, and the citizens have clean and safe drinking water.	Mehdi Taheri, Leader R6, CAED PWS Enf. Team (214) 665-2298 <a href="mailto:taheri.mehdi@epa.gov">taheri.mehdi@epa.gov</a>
4. Ensure safe drinking water for tribal households.	Respond to violations of drinking water regulations found in tribal drinking water systems.	Violation response notifies offender of problem with water system.		Increase the number of tribal households receiving safe drinking water.	Arnold Bierschenk, Water Quality Division Protection, Drinking Water Section (6WQ-SD) (214) 665-7435 <a href="mailto:bierschenk.arnold@epa.gov">bierschenk.arnold@epa.gov</a>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
5. Safe Drinking Water Act Training for tribal system operators	Provide funding and guidance to the New Mexico Environmental Finance Center to conduct training sessions on Safe Drinking Water Act implementation.	Participants will earn continuing education credit and learn improved disinfection techniques and O & M procedures.	Training will help reduce risk at tribal facilities.  Improve water system operator knowledge and skills.	Increase the number of tribal households receiving safe drinking water.  Decrease health risks associated with operational problems.	Arnold Bierschenk, Water Quality Division Protection, Drinking Water Section (6WQ-SD) (214) 665-7435 <a href="mailto:bierschenk.arnold@epa.gov">bierschenk.arnold@epa.gov</a>
6. Provide grants to federally recognized tribes for their drinking-water infrastructure needs	Provide an estimated five grants to tribal communities to address their immediate water infrastructure needs.	May address imminent health hazard risk posed by a highly contaminated drinking water (source or treated water, e.g. microbial contamination).	N/A	Improve water quality in Indian Country by addressing an immediate threat to public health and increasing tribal communities' compliance with national primary drinking water standards.	Rajen Patel, Water Quality Protection Division, Region 6 Tribal Set-aside Coordinator (WQ-AP) (214) 665-2788 <a href="mailto:Patel.Rajen@epa.gov">Patel.Rajen@epa.gov</a>
7. Provide Congressional Special Appropriation Act Project grants to local communities.	Provide approximately 25 percent of special appropriation grants for addressing drinking and wastewater needs to EJ communities.	May address imminent health hazard risk posed by a highly contaminated drinking water (source or treated water, e.g., microbial contamination).		Improve drinking water quality, and water storage, distribution, and collection. Improve wastewater collection lines, treatment.	Maurice Rawls, Region 6 Water Quality Protection Division, Chief, SRF & Projects Section (6WQ-AP) (214) 665-8049 <a href="mailto:Rawls.Maurice@epa.gov">Rawls.Maurice@epa.gov</a>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
8. Implement “EPA Guidance for Incorporating EJ concerns in EPA’s NEPA compliance analysis” by conducting EJ analyses for each and every water infrastructure project.	Detailed EJ analyses will be conducted on all congressional special appropriation projects, tribal infrastructure projects, and on all SRF loan projects. All special appropriation grants, tribal grants, and SRF loans are subject to NEPA review requirements. Extensive EJ analysis is preformed as a part of this NEPA review.	EJ analysis ensures that there are no short or long term adverse impacts.	N/A	EJ analysis will ensure that the project receiving federal assistance does not adversely impact disadvantaged communities.	Maurice Rawls, Region 6 Water Quality Protection Division, Chief, SRF & Projects Section (6WQ-AP) (214) 665-8049 <a href="mailto:Rawls.Maurice@epa.gov">Rawls.Maurice@epa.gov</a>
9. Tribal Public Water System Operator Training and Certification	Provide funding and guidance to the New Mexico Environmental Finance Center to provide operator training and administer operator certification exams.	Improve knowledge level of tribal water system operators.	N/A	Increase the number of tribal households receiving safe drinking water.	Arnold Bierschenk, Water Quality Division Protection, Drinking Water Section (6WQ-SD) (214) 665-7435 <a href="mailto:bierschenk.arnold@epa.gov">bierschenk.arnold@epa.gov</a>

**Goal 4:** Healthy Communities and Ecosystems

*Objective 1: Reduction in elevated blood lead levels*

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Lower Blood Lead Levels in children by providing funding to the Ottawa County Health Department	<p>Conduct testing and monitor children’s blood lead levels and conduct health education programs.</p> <p>Conduct follow-up outreach to families of children with elevated blood lead levels and offer health education to reduce further exposure.</p>	Conduct follow-up on elevated blood lead levels and offer health education to reduce further exposure	Public implements exposure reduction measures.	Decrease in number of children with elevated blood lead levels	Ursula Lennox Jennifer Lyke 6SF (214)665-6743 Lennox.ursula@epa.gov
2. Promote Lead Poisoning Prevention through:	<p>(a) Households will receive information on products and services to reduce or eliminate exposure pathways</p> <p>(b) Households utilize services or products to reduce or eliminate path exposure pathways</p> <p>(c) Regulated community having increased knowledge to reduce or eliminate lead based paint poisoning.</p>	Knowledge of methods to reduce or eliminate exposure pathways increased.	N/A	<p>Increase in "lead safe", "lead smart" or "lead free" housing.</p> <p>Reduce lead poisoning in census tracts, which have high rates of, elevated blood lead levels.</p> <p>(Measurable through CDC and HUD)</p>	Paul Scoggins, 6PD 214-665-6507 scoggins.paul@epa.gov

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
3. Promote Lead Poisoning Prevention for the Cherokee Nation.	<p>(a) Develop and print lead hazard information (brochures &amp; posters) for dissemination to the Cherokee Nation. Attend educational fairs and other venues in order to disseminate literature to educators, parents, regulated community, and other interested parties. Maintain the Cherokee Nation's Lead-Based Paint Web page.</p> <p>(b) Hold Meetings to discuss lead related activities (ensuring that tribal members and citizens of the Nation are aware of the need to utilize Oklahoma and/or Cherokee certified individuals and firms).</p> <p>(c) When possible through enforcement actions, Supplemental Environmental Projects or alternate injunctive relief will be utilized.</p>	Increase the knowledge of known exposures (lead based paints), exposure through workplace and other non-lead based paint methods.	Reduce or eliminate exposure pathways.	Decrease in number of clinically diagnosed lead poisoned children.	Estella Sugawara-Adams 6PD-T 214-665-2704 Sugawara-adams.estella@epa.gov

**Goal 4:** Healthy Communities and Ecosystems

*Objective 2: Collaborative problem-solving to address environmental justice issues*

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Participate in the Multilingual Communications Task Force that is spearheaded by EPA's Office of Public Affairs.	Produce EPA's documents in Vietnamese and conduct outreach to inform the public of an EPA web site in Vietnamese.	Increase awareness of EPA information for persons with limited English proficiency.		<p>Improve the Agency's outreach to multilingual and multicultural communities.</p> <p>Improve public awareness of EPA programs and resources.</p>	<p>Lisa Pham, Region 6 Water Quality Protection Division, Groundwater/UIC Section (6WQ-SG) (214) 665-8326 <a href="mailto:pham.lisa@epa.gov">pham.lisa@epa.gov</a></p>
2. Conduct various administrative, technical, and scientific reviews and evaluations, and expert assistance will be provided when requested in the Region.	EJ status will be considered when determining the permit issuance priorities in Region 6. Permit conditions are developed to protect the environment and human health regardless of the status of the affected community.	N/A	N/A	<p>Ensure that all minority and economic depressed citizens are fully protected via standard permit requirements.</p>	<p>Willie Lane, Region 6 Water Quality Protection Division, Chief, NPDES Permits and Technical Section (6WQ-PP) (214) 665- 8460 <a href="mailto:lane.willie@epa.gov">lane.willie@epa.gov</a></p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
<p>3. Partner with involved agencies to ensure implementation of the NEJAC recommendation for a firm restoration and transfer schedule for Fort Wingate in Gallup, NM.</p> <p>Property will be transferred to the Dept of Interior, to be held in trust for the Navajo and Zuni Tribes.</p>	<p>Review of eight documents projected to be submitted for EPA/New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) review in 2007.</p> <p>Army is required to consult with the tribes prior to submitting documents for NMED/EPA regulatory review.</p>	N/A	By participating in the review process, the tribe's concerns are addressed during plan development, rather than after regulatory approval.	Tribal Reuse plans can move forward based not only on regulatory site cleanup, but also based on tribal intended use.	<p>Chuck Hendrickson, 6PD 214-665-2196 <a href="mailto:Hendrickson.Charles@epa.gov">Hendrickson.Charles@epa.gov</a></p>
4. Promote and Award EJ Small Grants	<p>Distribute copies of grant solicitations and letters to Community Based Organizations (CBOs)</p> <p>Conduct training workshops</p> <p>Coordinate conference calls with CBOs</p>	Increase CBOs awareness of grant availability	N/A	Grant awards will raise awareness of environmental issues for communities and/or build CBO capacity	<p>Shirley Quinones, OEJTA 214-665-2713 <a href="mailto:Quinones.shirley@epa.gov">Quinones.shirley@epa.gov</a></p>
5. Build Emergency Contact List for Community Based Organizations (CBOs)	<p>Research names and contact information of CBO</p> <p>Compile CBO Contact information into a database</p>	Secure ability to contact COB's in case of an emergency	Build and improve relationships between EPA and CBOs	CBO's will be contacted by EPA in applicable emergency situations.	<p>Shirley Quinones, OEJTA 214-665-2713 <a href="mailto:Quinones.shirley@epa.gov">Quinones.shirley@epa.gov</a></p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
6. Improve communication in assisting EJ Communities in NM	Partner with the New Mexico Environment Department to establish goals that will demonstrate partnership to the EJ Community.	Improve EPA/NMED perception in the EJ Community of NM.	EJ communities will have an increased likelihood of working in partnership with EPA/NMED.	Pro-active solutions to problems in EJ communities may be achieved more effectively.	Linda Falk, OEJTA 214-665-8535 <a href="mailto:Falk.linda@epa.gov">Falk.linda@epa.gov</a>
7. Recognize positive contributions towards improving EJ communities	Develop criteria and plan for the recognition of State, tribe, or EPA staff  Annual award presentation to recognize significant gains in EJ accomplishment	Identify EJ as an Agency priority and a goal.  Increased incentive for working to improve EJ communities.	N/A	Motivate others to make strides in EJ integration.	Linda Falk, OEJTA 214-665-8535 <a href="mailto:Falk.linda@epa.gov">Falk.linda@epa.gov</a>
8. Advocate for healthy environments in New Mexico and along the US/Mexico border, with an emphasis on colonias.	Participate in a colonia or community workgroup to promote healthy environments by information sharing and distribution.  Share and create a comprehensive list of contacts of colonia stakeholders who focus on environmental issues.	Increase awareness of environmental and public health issues among colonia residents.	N/A	N/A	Linda Falk, OEJTA 214-665-8535 <a href="mailto:Falk.linda@epa.gov">Falk.linda@epa.gov</a>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
9. Increase outreach to EJ communities	Be proactive in distributing materials explaining the roles and services provided by the Region 6 EJ team. Create brochures, book covers, book marker, or post cards with EJ mission and goals.	Increase our constituents' awareness of the services our offices provide.	Constituents will be more likely to contact the Region 6 office for EJ assistance.	Attention will be brought to issues in EJ communities more expediently, ideally providing a more effective response to those issues.  Improve accessibility of EPA resources to vulnerable populations.	Linda Falk, OEJTA 214-665-8535 <a href="mailto:Falk.linda@epa.gov">Falk.linda@epa.gov</a>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
<p>10. Kelly Area Collaborative (KAC) is a continuation of the Interagency Working Group partnership to promote community/agency problem solving in the area surrounding the former Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.</p> <p>Help plan, conduct and provide follow-up to:</p> <p>--A Roundtable on Economic Revitalization</p> <p>--At least two Implementation Workshops</p>	<p>50 stakeholders will participate in each of the three meetings</p> <p>Develop Implementation Strategies with input from all stakeholders to address issues raised at the:</p> <p>(1 Environmental Roundtable, 2006;</p> <p>(2 Health Roundtables, 2006, and</p> <p>(3 Economic Revitalization Roundtable in 2007.</p>	<p>Increase stakeholder awareness and understanding of associated environmental, health, and revitalization challenges in the Kelly area - the mechanisms being used in the cleanup effort and to address health issues in the area</p> <p>Improved relations and increase trust among stakeholders</p>	<p>Enhanced community participation in decision-making affecting Kelly area.</p> <p>Improved inter-agency relationships and communication with the community</p> <p>Increase in community efforts to clean up and beautify the neighborhoods</p> <p>Decrease in activities that contribute to contamination.</p>	<p>Progress in the cleanup, health awareness, and revitalization will be achieved by 2008.</p> <p>Improved health of community will be improved due to increased awareness and information achieved as a result of KAC.</p> <p>Promotion of economic revitalization of the area</p>	<p>Nelda Perez, OEJTA 214-665-2209 perez.nelda@epa.gov</p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
<p>11. Help plan, coordinate and implement a <i>colonia</i> environmental health outreach effort in <i>colonias</i> near Corpus Christi, Texas.</p> <p>Partners will include: South Texas Colonia Initiative (STCI), University of Texas Health Sciences Center (UTHSC), and the Regional Health Advisory Board of Nueces and San Patricio Counties</p>	<p>Assist/host one environmental health outreach activity to include a bilingual community meeting</p> <p>Conduct one-on-one discussions with colonia residents on safe drinking water, indoor air issues, lead-based paint, septic tanks and children's health.</p> <p>Distribute bilingual flyers, brochures, pamphlets, coloring books, etc.</p> <p>(Goal: Reach 70% of residents in the selected colonia)</p>	<p>Parents will be more informed regarding the health risks that confront their families and how to best protect their children's health.</p> <p>Increase awareness of STCI and OEJTA as an important resource, available to serve as a conduit of information and to assist with resources.</p>	<p>Unhealthy practices and behaviors will gradually change to the benefit of the entire community.</p> <p>The community will begin to partner with STCI, UTHSC and RHAB to help address their environmental problems and health issues.</p>	<p>Reach 70% of selected colonia residents and improve access to information to reduce health risks.</p>	<p>Nelda Perez, OEJTA 214-665-2209 perez.nelda@epa.gov</p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
<p>12. Collaborative Community Problem Solving --Panola County, Texas— Assist the community and Reverend Hudson in their search for a new source of safe drinking water.</p>	<p>Follow up on 12/19/2006 meeting in Panola Co. - Send meeting notes to participants. - Investigate avenues for resources for the community. - Coordinate communication among EPA programs and other agencies and share information with the community.</p>	<p>Increased community understanding of the environmental problems of underlying water quality issues.</p> <p>Attempt to identify resources for a new drinking water system</p>	<p>Improved productivity of communication among involved parties</p> <p>Identification of an alternate, safe drinking water source</p>	<p>Safe drinking water supply for the community.</p>	<p>Nelda Perez, OEJTA 214-665-2209 perez.nelda@epa.gov</p>
<p>--South Texans Opposing Pollution (STOP)—assist, the community near Taft, Texas to find solutions to the health problems caused by blowing red dust from bauxite residue ponds of the Sherwin Alumina plant.</p>	<p>Coordinate communication with STOP, Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) and appropriate agencies and facilitate sharing of resources and information</p> <p>Host a meeting of stakeholders to explore additional avenues that may be pursued to address the community's concerns</p>	<p>Increase knowledge of environmental issues surrounding STOP's concerns.</p> <p>Development of a collaborative partnership between STOP and involved agencies, as well as with Sherwin Alumina</p>	<p>The collaborative effort to find solutions to the problem of the blowing bauxite residue will improve relations among the party, if successful.</p>	<p>Implementation of a mutually agreed upon solution will result in the improved health of neighborhood residents</p>	

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
13. Pilot Project – Community Collaborative Partnership	Provide support to two communities that seek to: -gain a comprehensive perspective of environmental risks and impacts within their communities, and - to identify a set of comprehensive resources for addressing community needs.	Improve the understanding of environmental and environmental health impacts and risk factors in the community	Build consensus among all sectors of the community that will be needed to take effective action	Mobilize all sectors of the community and its partners to take effective actions to reduce impacts and risks  Build the long term capacity of all sectors of the community to understand and reduce environmental impacts and risks”	Shirley Augurson, OEJTA (214) 665-7401 <a href="mailto:Augurson.Shirley@epa.gov">Augurson.Shirley@epa.gov</a>
14. Koppers Creosote Coalition	Continue to promote a collaborative effort among various stakeholders to resolve issues in neighborhoods near the Koppers Creosote facility in North Little Rock, Arkansas.  Follow up on analysis of Retention ponds  Summer - Air Monitoring with new equipment	Increased knowledge of environmental and health concerns.  Air monitoring and other data collection will provide information on air quality and other concerns in the area	Establish partnership between affected parties to promote communication and problem resolution.	Improved environmental conditions for the community.	Shirley Quinones, OEJTA 214-665-2713 <a href="mailto:Quinones.shirley@epa.gov">Quinones.shirley@epa.gov</a>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
15. Ensure opportunities for meaningful Public Participation in the Region, particularly in Emergency Response situations.	<p>Collaborate with State Partners and community organizations on EJ Listening Sessions in the Louisiana area, which will allow an opportunity for information exchange with communities and stakeholders.</p> <p>Conduct training on pertinent environmental issues affecting the community.</p> <p>Hold conference calls with State Partners on Public Involvement in Emergency Response Situations.</p> <p>State and EPA Guidance and or Policy documents will be updated to Incorporate EJ Public involvement in emergency response.</p>	<p>Develop trust and relationship with communities and stakeholders</p> <p>Inform EPA, State and participants.</p> <p>Improve community education on environmental regulations.</p> <p>Identify steps for effective public involvement.</p>	<p>Increase community willingness to participate and speak out on issues that adversely affect them.</p> <p>Implement process for communities to have meaningful involvement in the decision-making processes during emergency response situations.</p>	<p>Improved communication and trust among community and stakeholders.</p> <p>Developed trust between federal and state governments with potentially affected communities.</p>	<p>Charlotte Runnels, OEJTA (214) 665-6442 <a href="mailto:runnels.charlotte@epa.gov">runnels.charlotte@epa.gov</a></p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
16. Ensure that Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in Region 6 have access to EPA information.	<p>Send EJ grant information to CBOs via mail and email.</p> <p>Schedule conference calls open to CBOs to provide information and answer questions.</p>	Improve Region 6 CBOs awareness of EPA activities, guidance, reports, grants, etc.	N/A	N/A	<p>Shirley Quinones, OEJTA 214-665-2713 <a href="mailto:Quinones.shirley@epa.gov">Quinones.shirley@epa.gov</a></p>
17. Ensure EJ issues/complaints are appropriately monitored and followed through.	<p>Use the Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Communication System to record, monitor and close out EJ issues/complaints.</p> <p>Use the Weekly Activity Report to highlight significant EJ issues to Region 6 Senior Staff.</p>	Increase Region 6 staff awareness of ongoing EJ issues.	Increased monitoring will ensure appropriate and timely follow-up on EJ issues/concerns.	N/A	<p>Shirley Quinones, OEJTA 214-665-2713 <a href="mailto:Quinones.shirley@epa.gov">Quinones.shirley@epa.gov</a></p>

**Goal 4:** Healthy Communities and Ecosystems

*Objective 3: Revitalization of brown fields and contaminated sites*

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Address Solid Waste concerns on tribal lands	Ensure closure of one open dump on tribal land	Posting of “No Dumping” signs increase resident awareness	Trash dumping decreases	Open dumpsite visibly cleaned up	Roger Hancock, 6PD-U 214 665-6688 hancock.roger@epa.gov
	Conduct three Solid Waste workshops for tribes	Increase tribal member knowledge of solid waste programs and how to compete for federal grants	N/A	More Region 6 tribes receive solid waste grants and develop stronger SW programs	
	Outreach and training for tribes on developing SW Management Plans	Tribes ascertain the knowledge to develop a comprehensive integrated solid waste management plan	Tribal leaders and environmental staff implement the plan	Tribes have a stronger SW program and are able address solid waste needs and open dumps more effectively.	
2. Address Underground Storage Tank (UST) Contamination on Tribal Lands	Conduct 34 UST Inspections on Tribal Lands	Increase awareness of potential and active problems with UST systems on Tribal Lands.		Decrease land contamination from UST violations.	Greg Pashia, 6PD 214-665-8439 Pashia.greg@epa.gov

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
3. Prepare an internal outreach plan to solicit more proposals from disadvantaged/tribal communities	<p>Conduct at least 3 grant writing workshops</p> <p>Host an online workshop for those unable to attend “in person” workshops</p> <p>Post quarterly “Reader” on R6 Brownfields webpage regarding upcoming activities</p> <p>Host a quarterly conference call on general Brownfields issues and address any questions/comments</p>	Increased awareness of resources available through the Brownfields program.	Tribal and disadvantaged communities will be able to produce more viable and competitive grant proposals.	Increase grant resources to tribes and disadvantaged communities.	Camisha Scott Marshall, 6SF (214)665-6755 Scott.camisha@epa.gov

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
4. Improve EJ integration into activities at all Superfund Sites	<p>Community Involvement Coordinators (CIC) will generate a GIS Environmental Justice (EJ) analysis for each site.</p> <p>Ensures that all CI materials generated for the community are issued in English and the appropriate language.</p> <p>Utilize appropriate media to provide the community information about site work.</p> <p>Involve impacted communities in the site assessment phase and continue through the emergency response, removal, remedial, Brownfields and reuse phases.</p>	<p>1. Increased awareness of Superfund activity for all impacted communities.</p> <p>2. Increase awareness of sensitivities and special needs of vulnerable populations at Superfund sites.</p>	Superfund staff communicates in appropriate language to most effectively reach community.	Increase efficiency and effectiveness of Superfund site activities and return sites to a cleaned state.	Beverly Negri, 6SF (214) 665-8157 Negri.beverly@epa.gov

**Goal 5:** Compliance and Environmental Stewardship

*Objective 1: Ensure Compliance*

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Improve RCRA compliance in EJ areas.	<p>FY 06, RCRA evaluation and compliance monitoring evaluation inspections, 47 % of which were projected to be in communities with EJ concerns, revealed violations.</p> <p>Pursue appropriate actions to bring sites into compliance with RCRA regulations.</p> <p>Conduct public hearings and awareness activities</p>	Increase resident's awareness and understanding of violations occurring in their communities	Regulation compliance will be ensured through compliance assistance and enforcement actions.	Pollutants reduced will benefit the environment and welfare of affected communities	<p>Mark Hansen, Chief Mary Tucker, EJ Rep R6, CAED Hazardous Waste Enforcement Branch (214) 665-7548 <a href="mailto:hansen.mark@epa.gov">hansen.mark@epa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:tucker.mary@epa.gov">tucker.mary@epa.gov</a></p>

**Cross Cutting Strategies:**

*Objective: Internal Capacity Building (e.g., internal program management)*

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Provide training/learning opportunities for EPA staff on EJ issues.	<p>Host an Environmental Justice Brown Bag Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Locate and schedule speakers from the community to come and speak to EPA staff on various topics related to EJ and tribes.</li> </ul> <p>Participate in a “train the trainer” program to provide internal and external EJ awareness training.</p>	<p>EPA Region 6 staff will have increased awareness of EJ/Tribal issues.</p> <p>Advertise and host 2 and 3 day workshops</p> <p>Develop training materials</p>	N/A	<p>EPA Region 6 staff will have an increased ability to integrate EJ/tribal considerations into routine programmatic activities.</p> <p>Increase tolerance and support for EJ Communities</p>	<p>Linda Falk, OEJTA (214) 665-8535 <a href="mailto:falk.linda@epa.gov">falk.linda@epa.gov</a></p> <p>Shirley Quinones, OEJTA 214-665-2713 Quinones.shirley@epa.gov</p>
2. Maximize leveraging of EPA resources for EJ communities	Region 6 programs, including the Brownfields, CARE and EJ programs, will cooperate to identify EJ communities participating in EPA programs to identify opportunities for EJ communities to leverage available funding and support to maximize resources.	Increase inter-program knowledge among the Brownfields, CARE, and EJ teams	Maximize use of EPA funding, trainings, support and other resources	N/A	Camisha Scott Marshall, 6SF (214)665-6755 Scott.camisha@epa.gov

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
3. Improve the Brownfields program by incorporating successful EJ/Tribal elements from other programs	Brownfields' team member will participate in applicable EJ/Tribal program's review process and solicit input on improving the BF process.	Increase Brownfields' program awareness of issuing grants to EJ and tribal communities by participating in the review of EJ/tribal competitive Grants	Assess and identify elements that can be incorporated into the BF program	Incorporate "lessons learned" into the BF program	Camisha Scott Marshall, 6SF (214)665-6755 e-mail: <a href="mailto:Scott.camisha@epa.gov">Scott.camisha@epa.gov</a>
4. Promote EJ Integration into the Emergency Response System at National and Regional Levels in accordance with Administrator Johnson' Memorandum: Reaffirming the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Commitment to Environmental Justice, "November 4, 2005, in keeping with lessons learned during the Hurricane Katrina response, and in response to the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) report.	<p>The EJ Team will participate on the Regional Incident Command Team and provide input into the Agency's Disaster Response Strategy and Chemical Response Strategy.</p> <p>The Incident Management Handbook (IMH) will clearly indicate that the ICS Liaison Officer who is charge of establishing and coordinating contact with key stakeholders, will assure environmental justice issues are addressed in a timely manner and briefed to the Incident Commander as necessary</p>	Increase general awareness of the importance of EJ integration into Emergency Response	The integration of EJ into Emergency Response	Integration of EJ into EPA programs in the Region	<p>Charlotte Runnels, OEJTA (214) 665-6442 <a href="mailto:runnels.charlotte@epa.gov">runnels.charlotte@epa.gov</a></p> <p>Karen McCormick, 6SF (214)665-8365 <a href="mailto:McCormick.karen@epa.gov">McCormick.karen@epa.gov</a></p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
5. Monitor Region 6 progress towards EJ implementation	<p>Update functional guidance to include FY07/08 Action Plan commitments, organizational changes, other updates</p> <p>Provide final Action Plan/updated functional guidance to Region 6 management (03/07)</p> <p>Participate in National workgroup to develop EJ Program Reviews per OIG recommendations (01/07 – 07/07)</p> <p>Conduct internal Regional program reviews (08/07)</p> <p>Participate w/OEJ in annual Regional review (09/07)</p> <p>Provide feedback to Region 6 management (10/07)</p> <p>Develop/implement midcourse correction to EJ Action Plan based on program review (10/07)</p>	Strengths and weaknesses of Region’s EJ implementation are identified.	EPA staff increasingly considers EJ in decision-making.	Improved EJ implementation benefits the Region’s constituents and reduces/eliminates disproportionate impacts on EJ communities.	Shirley Augurson, OEJTA (214) 665-7401 <a href="mailto:Augurson.Shirley@epa.gov">Augurson.Shirley@epa.gov</a>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
6. Coordinate EJ integration with States, tribes and other governmental entities	<p>Continue contacts with States, Tribes and other entities to discuss EJ policies and issues via meetings, written communications, etc.</p> <p>Hold semi annual State EJ Coordinators meeting</p> <p>Continue existing partnerships with DOJ, DOD, states, ATSDR and other agencies to address EJ concerns.</p> <p>Establish new partnerships when feasible</p>	Raised EJ awareness among our partners.	N/A	Improved EJ integration in Region 6 partners – including States, tribes and other governmental entities.	<p>Shirley Augurson, OEJTA (214) 665-7401 <a href="mailto:Augurson.Shirley@epa.gov">Augurson.Shirley@epa.gov</a></p> <p>Nelda Perez,OEJTA 214-665-2209 perez.nelda@epa.gov</p>
7. Develop EJ Program Review process and criteria	<p>Participate in a national workgroup to develop review criteria</p> <p>Meet with the Environmental Justice Executive Steering Committee</p> <p>Implement review process when finalized</p>	Establishment of EJ Program Review Process will solidify the importance of EJ integration.	Programs will use the review process to improve EJ integration in routine activities and decision-making.	Ensure that programs are integrating EJ into decision-making process.	<p>Shirley Augurson, OEJTA (214) 665-7401 <a href="mailto:Augurson.Shirley@epa.gov">Augurson.Shirley@epa.gov</a></p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
8. Increase Regional consistency in identifying EJ concerns/areas.	<p>Region 6 staff will use the EJ Index methodology until EJSEAT becomes available. When EJSEAT becomes available, Region 6 staff will be trained.</p> <p>Region 6 EJ Team will take NEPAassist training and utilize this tool it when applicable.</p>	Increase Region 6 staff awareness of available EJ tools.	Region 6 staff will increase routine use of available EJ tools.	Improved Regional consistency in the identification of EJ concerns/areas will decrease disproportionate impacts on EJ communities.	<p>Nelda Perez,OEJTA 214-665-2209 perez.nelda@epa.gov</p> <p>Shirley Quinones, OEJTA 214-665-2713 Quinones.shirley@epa.gov</p>
9. Improve internal coordination on EJ issues through the Regional EJ Workgroup.	<p>Continue utilization of the Regional EJ Workgroup</p> <p>WG Liaisons/Members will coordinate with OEJTA and their respective program offices on key issues and represent program office perspective on policy issues.</p> <p>Hold quarterly WG meetings (more frequently as needed)</p>	Continual increase of Region 6 staff awareness of EJ issues.	N/A	Improved internal coordination on issues impacted EJ communities.	<p>Shirley Augurson, OEJTA (214) 665-7401 <a href="mailto:Augurson.Shirley@epa.gov">Augurson.Shirley@epa.gov</a></p> <p>Linda Falk, OEJTA (214) 665-8535 <a href="mailto:falk.linda@epa.gov">falk.linda@epa.gov</a></p>